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SENATE BILL 2841 By
Dixon

HOUSE BILL 2549
By Bowers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 8; Title 43 and Title 49, and to enact the "Biobased Products: Teaching the Technologies of the 21st Century Act of 2000."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Biobased Products: Teaching the Technologies of the 21st Century Act of 2000".

SECTION 2. The general assembly finds that biobased products will play a strategic role in the technologies of the 21st Century. There is hereby created a competitive grants program administered by the department of education to solicit projects that develop educational materials and educational programs to teach K-12 students about biobased products and the effect of biobased industries on the environment, economy and health.

SECTION 3. The purpose of this competitive grants program is to develop a variety of educational materials and programs to teach K-12 students in Tennessee about biobased products. Areas eligible for funding include, but are not limited to, the development of curriculum, teacher handouts, hands-on programs and website information dissemination.

SECTION 4. To effectuate the purposes of this act, the department of education shall develop application procedures and offer competitive grants at the discretion, and under the supervision, of the commissioner.

SECTION 5. Funds appropriated for this competitive grant program shall be utilized for projects to include, but not be limited to, the development of dissemination tools such as websites, CD-ROMs, conferences or other information resources; the development of curriculum and teacher outreach programs; development of hands-on demonstration and field trips; and other similar projects. Grants shall be available to private businesses, research institutions, universities and non-profit organizations operating with their base of operations in Tennessee. Grants shall be available through a competitive selection process.

SECTION 6. The competitive grant program shall be structured in such a way so as not to require an expenditure in any fiscal year in which this program is in operation in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

SECTION 7. No later than July 1, 2001, and at two-year intervals thereafter, the department of education shall report to the general assembly relative to the progress of the competitive grants program and the implementation of information resources for K-12 students concerning biobased products.

SECTION 8. The commissioner of education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 9. The competitive grants program created by this act shall cease to exist on July 1, 2005.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.